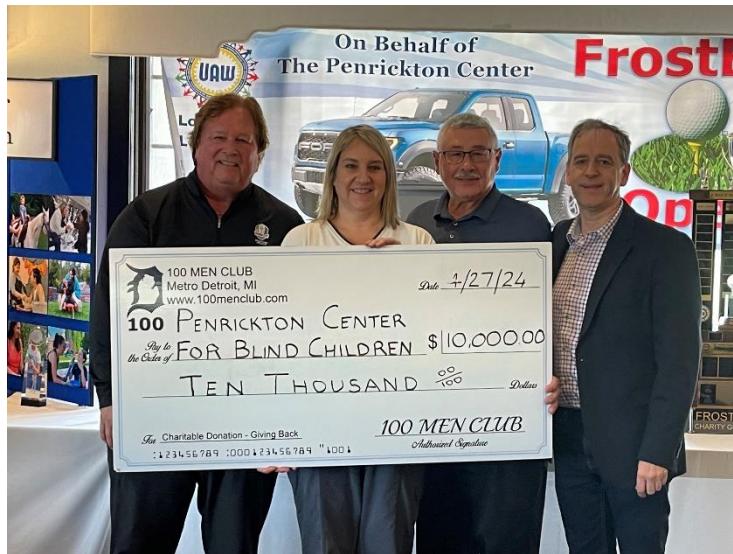




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **100 Men Club donates \$10,000 to Penrickton Center for Blind Children**



PLYMOUTH MI — April 27, 2024, — 100 Men Club, a group of local men committed to making a positive difference within the Metro Detroit communities and their families, presented their latest donation of \$10,000 to Penrickton Center for Blind Children. Pictured above Gary Kandt, Wally Dudun, and Martin Kinsella presenting The 100 Men Club check to Patty Obrzut Executive Director.

At their March meeting the membership voted for Penrickton Center for Blind Children nominated by 100 Men Club member Gary Kandt, as the winning charity among other finalists. The Penrickton Center for Blind Children is a unique, private non-profit agency, providing five-day residential, day care and consultation/evaluation services to children 1 through 12 who are visually impaired and multi-disabled. Individualized programs for every child in our care are designed to promote independence in all aspects of daily living. Penrickton Center utilizes its experience and expertise to teach and serve families, children and professionals through support services, education and advocacy.

When asked why he nominated Penrickton, Gary Kandt said, “As a 11year participant of the Frostbite open benefiting the Penrickton Center for blind children, it was a honor to nominate the center. After seeing what they actually do to help the children and their families at no cost is overwhelming. Their staff and volunteers are very special in helping the children with their disabilities.”

Penrickton Center for Blind Children was established in the City of Taylor, Michigan in 1952 by three families (Penman, Ricker and Wigginton) as a day nursery for blind preschoolers because no such

program existed. Originally meeting in their homes, then a local church; Penrickton Center's permanent home was established through a land grant from the City of Taylor and through private donations. The original brick building was built and donated by individuals and service clubs.

Currently, they specialize in working with children ages one through twelve who are blind and visually impaired with at least one additional disability such as deafness, autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delay and seizures.

Their website: <https://penrickton.org> lists many helpful resources for families in need of their services. Many blind children with multiple impairments wait for adults to provide stimulation. Therefore, they become passive. "Active Learning" techniques emphasize simple ways to change the environment so that a child becomes an "active learner."

Dr. Nielsen developed the approach known as "Active Learning," and designed equipment that is specifically for blind, multi-disabled children. She was trained as a preschool teacher and as a psychologist. Dr. Nielsen worked with disabled children for almost 43 years, the last 33 years with visually impaired children (birth to 21 years of age) with and without other disabilities. Dr. Nielsen has written numerous books; conducted research on congenitally blind children's spatial relationship, and designed several perceptual aids. She lectured all around the world and was the premier authority on visually impaired children with multiple disabilities.

Penrickton Center for Blind Children has all of the equipment developed by Dr. Nielsen for "Active Learning." This includes The Little Room, HOPSA Dress, ESSEF Board, Resonance Board, and Support Bench. Additionally, Penrickton Center staff have been authorized by Dr. Nielsen to provide in-service training and seminars. Please contact Patty Obrzut, O.T.R.M.S. Executive Director at [patty@penrickton.org](mailto:patty@penrickton.org) or Kirstyn Martino, B.S., C.T.R.S., Active Learning Specialist at [kirstyn@penrickton.org](mailto:kirstyn@penrickton.org) for more information regarding Active Learning trainings.

100 Men Club was founded in December 2016. The members range from recent college graduates to CEOs to retirees, with the common intention to build a tradition of helping others. For each member, the positive energy and camaraderie of 100+ men with a sincere purpose to 'give back' is compelling and rewarding. For more information on 100 Men Club, visit [www.100menclub.com](http://www.100menclub.com)

Each quarter, 100+ men donate \$100 each. Candidates for receiving the donation are nominated by any member of the club. One cause is selected through a vote at the meeting, and receives a check for \$10,000+. Since its inaugural year in 2017, 100 Men Club has donated over \$250,000 and has over 125 sustaining members. Founding member Chris Charron commented that "My involvement in 100 MEN CLUB has been eye-opening. As a millennial, I've learned about many people who are under-served and overlooked by our society. 100 MEN CLUB is an amazing group of guys committed to make a difference in their lives. I am proud and inspired to be a part of this mission."

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